Eastern Michigan University

Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Feb. 12, 1987

Mr. Eldon Byrd
1008 Broadview Rd.
Fort Washington, MD 29744

Dear Mr. Byrd:

Thanks for your telephone call last week. I still remain shocked at the incredible story that seems to be unfolding. I hope you might keep me informed about what happens.

I wrote Randi asking him if the letter he seems to have sent to Dennis Stillings was actually from him. I await his reply. I also tried to call Stan Krippner to make sure he knew the story he had heard was false, but Stan was out of town (probably out of the country since he travels a great deal). From what little I know, it does seem that Randi probably did write the letter to Stillings and probably believes its contents.

Let me know how, if at all, I can act to end the apparent defamation of you someone started.

You might want to best write Randi about the matter directly. His address, if you don't already have it, is: James Randi; 5901 12th Ct., NW; Sunrise, FL 33313. His phone is probably available from the local operator.

When we spoke on the phone, you indicated that you had heard that a Lee Pulos was suing Randi. From what Stillings told me about this, Pulos is merely financiall helping some Arizona lawyer who is suing Randi and the AMA about some healer that got put out of business by them.

By the way, did you ever publish any reply to Martin Gardner concerning his paper about your nitinol experiment with Geller?

Good luck in straightening out matters.

Sincerely,

Marcello Truzzi

Marcello Truzzi

Department of Sociology
(313) 487-0012

Eastern Michigan University
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

May 25, 1988

Dear Eldon,

Enclosed is the tape of the exchange between Ted Karmilovich and Randi at the meeting of the NY Skeptics. It also includes an exchange between Karmilovich and some of the skeptics gathered there afterwards.

I note that Randi here claims the tape of him on the phone was altered or doctored by the cops. Until now, I think he claimed the tape was legitimate.

Note that he claims you were the long sought after molester being hunted for many years. Then, he claims you plead guilty but somehow were given an incredibly short prison term and are now out on probation.

I also enclose a copy of Ted's letter sent to the head of the NY Skeptics along with a copy of the original Randi tape.

Best,

Marcello Truzzi

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(313) 487-0012

THANK YOU for testifying at the trial! Although the jury did not see fit to call Randi CSICOP's agent and they awarded no damages, at least they recognized Randi as being a liar with a "reckless disregard for the truth."

I have enclosed an annotated transcript of the newspaper article about the trial.

Eldon

Eldon A. Byrd

The Baltimore Sun
Saturday June 5, 1993

Magician defamed scientist, jury rules

By Norris West
Staff Writer

A federal jury ruled yesterday that "The Amazing Randi," a magician, defamed a Finksburg scientist by calling him a child molester but the panel did not award any monetary damages.

The jury in U.S. District Court in Baltimore found that Eldon Byrd, 53, the scientist, suffered humiliation, mental anguish, suffering and damage to his reputation because of the false statements. But the panel found that he was not entitled to any monetary damages after hearing testimony that he had sexually molested -- and later married -- his sister-in-law.

Not true!

Jurors deliberated over three days before they reached a verdict in the case that featured a plaintiff who dabbles in the supernatural, a defendant who debunks paranormal claims, and testimony on the mud-slinging battle between them that prompted the suit. Not true!

Mr. Byrd, 53, had sued James Randi, the magician, for libel, slander and invasion of privacy. Mr. Randi, 64, once a specialist in Houdini-type illusions, has made a second career of discrediting those who claim to have supernatural powers.

Jurors cleared the other defendant in the case, the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, which Mr. Randi helped to establish.

The case centered on false statements by Mr. Randi, who called Mr. Byrd a child molester in magazine story and said in a 1988 speech that the plaintiff was known by police in the Washington, D.C., area as the "shopping market molester."

The magicians lawyer defended his statements by saying that Mr. Byrd was a child molester who never was convicted of that crime. The scientist's lawyer sought to discredit Mr. Randi by playing taped conversations of teen-age boys who called the magicians home allegedly for sex.

"I have been trying to figure out why Mr. Byrd brought this case," Diane M. Lank, the magicians lawyer, told jurors in closing arguments. "I've finally figured out that Mr. Byrd is willing to get down into the mud provided he can drag Mr. Randi down with him."

Jurors in the courtroom of Judge Marvin J. Garbis listened to intimate details of the lives of Mr. Byrd and Mr. Randi and those of a woman who said she was sexually abused by Mr. Byrd over a 13-year period beginning at age 12.

Ms. Lank introduced evidence showing that Mr. Byrd collected pornographic magazines of girls ages 9 to 16 years.

Mr. Byrd was arrested in 1986 in Fairfax County, Va., for child pornography and later plead guilty to a misdemeanor pornography charge. He never was charged or convicted of child molestation, but he was fired from his job as a physical scientist with the Navy as a result of the pornography conviction. Not true.

Richard W. Winelander, Mr. Byrd's lawyer, argued that his client was damaged by the false statement. He said the magician knew the facts of Mr. Byrd's case after talking to a U.S. postal inspector.

Nancy L. Harrison, a defense lawyer for the scientific organization, said Mr. Byrd's reputation had already been tarnished at the time the false statement was made.

He doesn't mention anything about the time Randi accused you of the taking your kids out of school, other kids into your car to child molest them, rooms in your house, or that Randi

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2/11/87

Dear Dan,

Tried to call you but was told you were on vacation.

I got a telephone call day before yesterday from Eldon Byrd. He had seen the letter, apparently sent out by Randi, which I had been shown by Dennis Stillings (copy enclosed). About two weeks before I had seen this letter, Stan Krippner told me that he had been called by Randi and that Randi told him, gleefully, that Byrd had been arrested for child molestation. So, this letter to Stillings seemed consistent with what Krippner said. Apparently, Byrd had seen a different copy of the letter Stillings got (seemingly a form computer letter with personali top and general bottom). Anyway, Byrd (I presume this really was Byrd who called me) said he was neither arrested nor convicted and indicated there was no truth to any of this stuff. He said he thought that someone in his office might be feeding misinformation to Randi. He also was unsure if this letter was really from Randi since it is neither signed nor on a letterhead (I don't know if he saw the Randi labelled envelope).

Anyway, all this crap has taken a bizarre turn, as you can see. And I think Randi may be in the position that Byrd could sue the hell out of him.

I enclose also a copy of the letter I immediately sent Randi (who has not answered my last couple of letters, by the way).

I think I already told you that Pendragon has filed suit against the Hawaii Skeptics and Randi (at least he told me early last week that he planned to do so before the week was out). I have also been told that Randi (and the AMA) are currently being sued by an Arizona lawyer (backed by a millionaire and hypnotist) because Randi and the AMA together put a spiritual healer out of business that this lawyer believes helped with his medical problems.

Byrd also told me that Randi had lost a defamation suit filed against him* by some deputy sheriff but the guy got nothing because Randi then had nothing.

Finally, I might mention that yesterday I received (with no note or explanation) the CSICOP tapes I earlier ordered and which I asked Kurtz to look into and get sent to me. Looks like he took care of this since I doubt Plummer sent them to me.

Best,

Marcello Truzzi

* several years ago.

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